Library

BOROUGH OF BODMIN

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1959.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:
J.REED, M.B.,Ch.B., B.Sc.,D.P.H.

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector:
A.F.J.Webb, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Mr.Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the report for 1959 of the Medical Officer of Health.

The Vital Statistics show the usual fluctuations. The number of births increased by 15, the number of deaths in strictly Borough residents by 7. The interesting feature is that in the figures as a whole and for those of Borough residents the proportion of female deaths was almost double that of male deaths. The majority of deaths were of elderly persons.

There is virtually little to add to the comments on the 1958 report since the Council have continued with the various schemes upon which they had then embarked. Housing progress has been very good and the establishment of a new sewage works to serve the West Heath Estate was making good headway during the year. The town's water supply has steadily improved, and the formation of the Joint Water Board upon which the Council will be represented is imminent.

The Ministry have requested special comment on Public Swimming baths in this report. I regret that I have to report that we are lacking in these facilities, but I am of the opinion that a Public Pool is very much needed not only for the Town but for a large surrounding area. It would give me a great deal of pleasure to be able to report on a swimming pool in the not too distant future.

The amount of notified infectious disease was small, but marked by the inclusion of one case of typhoid fever occurring in the St. Lawrence's Hospital staff. There were no secondary cases, and the source was not difficult to determine.

1959 can be regarded as one of continued steady progress in matters concerning Public Health, for which the Council is to be congratulated.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN REED
Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report - Bodmin 1959

Estimated Mid-Year Population	6,080
Area in Acres	3,312
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,578
Rateable Value	£62,455
Product of Penny Rate	£245.6
Comparability Factors:-	
Births	1.37
Deaths	0.38

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

Registered Live Births, 1959

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	36	32	68
Illegitimate	3	4	7
	39	36	75

Birth Rate per 1,000 population	12.3
Birth Rate per 1,000 population England & Wales	16.5
Comparable Birth Rate	16.8

Stillbirths

Two legitimate stillbirths were recorded - one of each sex

Deaths

Registered Deaths, 1959.

Male	Female	Total
48	90	138

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	22.7
Death Rate, England & Wales	11.6
Comparable Death Rate	6.3

Infant Deaths

One male legitimate infant death was recorded.

Deaths by Diseases

	Male	Female
Heart Disease	26	47
Cerebro Vascular Disease	3	9
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	3
Respiratory Diseases (Excluding T.B.)	3	8
Cancer	3	10
Accident	2	7
Other causes	10	6
	48	90

The number of deaths occuring in Borough residents other than the St.Lawrence Hospital was 46 (16 male and 30 female)

II. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hospital Services

The East Cornwall Hospital provided admission and out-patient facilities for the majority of cases arising in the Borough, with the exception of Antenatal and Gynaecological services. These may be obtained in Wadebridge or St.Austell. School orthopaedic and ophthalmic clinics are held in Narisa Hall, in conjunction with the County Education Department.

St.Lawrence's Hospital is the major unit for mental disorders in the County. Extensive alterations have taken place over the past few years, in keeping with the present trend of equalising the status of Mental and General Hospitals.

Laboratory Services

The Laboratory of the R.C.I. is used for general and Public Health work, although the laboratory in the St.Lawrence's Hospital is also used by the East Cornwall Hospital. It would be a considerable help to the district as a whole if this laboratory could also be used for the bacteriological examination of water supplies.

County Council Services

Ambulance Service The Main Ambulance station for Area 5 is situated in Bodmin, which also provides the radio control station for the Eastern part of the County. The vehicles at present garaged in various parts of the town will soon be provided with new accommodation in Barn Lane in a combined Ambulance and Radio Control centre.

Ambulance Service cont:

The service provided during 1959 was adequate.

Home Nursing, Health Visiting and Midwifery Service

The Town was served by two nurses undertaking combined duties assisted by one part-time nurse and one health visitor.

Infant Welfare

The Centre in Norise Hall was very well attended, so much so that the sessions were increased from two to four in September.

Immunisation and Vaccination

The protective inoculations provided by the County Council cover diptheria, whooping cough, tetanus (in a combined course), Poliomyelitis and Smallpox. They are available through General Practitioners, the Infant Welfare Centre or through School Health Services. Protection against tuberculosis is also available for special groups through the Chest Clinic at the East Cornwall Hospital or the School Health Service.

The rate of immunisation in infants is fairly satisfactory. Sixty two children born in 1958 should have completed their immunisations both for the triple vaccine and poliomyelitis vaccine. In fact our records indicate that 45 completed the triple vaccine and 41 poliomyelitis. The figures for 1957 children are total 70, completed triple vaccine 49, completed poliomyelitis vaccine 54. It is not of course surprising to find the same children unprotected for triple and poliomyelitis. The proportion of protected is in the region of 75% which may be considered as reasonable.

The response to poliomyelitis vaccination in young adults (26-40 years) has not been great.

III. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Sewerage

The Borough is sewered to two treatment works, Dragon Pits and Scarletts Well. Both works gave satisfactory effluents at the time of sampling. Scarletts Well, the older of the two works is considerably overloaded, and requires modernisation. Consulting Engineers have submitted proposals for their improvement.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b28936607

III cont:

Sewerage

Proposals to build a new sewage treatment works at Blowinghouse have been completed. The works in addition to providing a much needed treatment plant for houses on the Westheath Estate, at present on septic tanks, will also take some of the sewage from the Rock Lane area, and permit the further development of the Westheath Estate.

Extensions to sewers were made at Downing Street and Rock Lane to newly built houses and Bungalows.

Water Supplies.

The Bodmin Water Company continued to improve the towns supply during the year. The whole of 32 samples submitted for bacteriological analysis were satisfactory. A boosting station at the Barn Lane reservoir was completed and brought into operation to improve the supply to the higher levels in the town. The boosting station at Helland has been replaced by a 25 H.P. in-line Booster on the 8" main at St.Breward, increasing the pressure and volume of water delivered by the trunk main to Bodmin. The main was also cleaned by pressure scraping.

Main extensions were made to the Rock Lane Council Estate, whilst renewals were made in St.Nicholas Street, Fore Street, Honey Street and Crinnicks Hill.

Refuse Disposal

The tip at Dragon Pits continued in use throughout the year without complaint.

Rodent Control

Routine checks, including sewer baiting produced little evidence of rat infestation.

Public Health Inspections

Summary of Visits

Council Properties	281
Private Houses	136
Food Premises	34
Slaughterhouses	186
Other premises	173

Twelve informal notices were served in relation to defects observed during inspections. No formal notices were required.

The licence to the single Pet Shop was issued for 1959, and the premises were kept satisfactorily.

IV. HOUSING

The Council continued to make progress in the clearance and re-development of Downing Street. An enquiry regarding a compulsory purchase order permitted the Council to acquire three further properties in the area. Seven other houses were considered by the Council during the year, resulting in three demolition orders and four closing orders.

Fourteen houses were completed at Downing Gardens. Plans were approved and work commenced on twelve 2-bedroomed and four 1-bedroom flats in Downing Street re-development area. In Rock Lane twenty bungalows were completed and a further eight were approved in November. Nine houses were built by private individuals and proposals for the private development of the Westheath Estate were under consideration

No further cases were considered under the Rent Act,1957.

Camping and Caravan Sites

The single site at Cooksland continued in use, though the facilities are very limited.

V. FOOD AND DRUGS

The following is a list of foodstuffs voluntarily surrendered and condemned.

Tins (various) 533, 4 jars of cheese, 24 packets cheese, 259 packets cereals, 6 packets Cake-Mixture, 6 drums of mustard, 13 packets of custard powder, 1 box chocolate biscuits, 10 packets of Semolina, 20 boxes of fish, 5 lbs of prepared fish.

Ice-Cream

There were no new licenses issued for 1959 for the sale of ice-cream. The majority retail only pre-packed ice-cream and the premises selling the loose product were considered suitable for the purpose.

V. FOOD AND DRUGS cont:

Milk Distribution

Seven distributors' licenses were issued for Pasteurised Milk and two for tuberculin tested milk. Distribution is satisfactory with the exception that storage facilities between receipt of milk and its distribution are in some instances inadequate.

Slaughter of Animals

The two privately owned slaughterhouses were licensed during the year and seven slaughtermens' licenses were also issued.

The following table classifies the slaughtered animals and the results of inspection.

Carcasses and Offal Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	242	-	23	505	343
Number Inspected	242	-	23	505	343
All Diseases except T.B. & Cysticercosis					
Whole Carcasses	1	-	-	3	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	41	-	-	6	3
Percentage affected	8.1	-	-	4.5	1.7
Tuberculosis only	1	-	-	-	-
Part or Organ	2	-	-	-	11
Percentage affected	.72	-	-	-	3.73
Cysticercosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

VI. FACTORIES

The following table shows the work undertaken and results in the inspection of registered factories in the Borough.

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-			
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	37	18	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total..	37	18	Nil	Nil

Particulars	Number of Cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Insptr.	Referred By H.M. Insptr.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ineffective drainage of Floors(S.6).....					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) Insufficient..					
(b) Unsuitable or defective.....	2	2	-	-	
(c) Not separate for sexes.....	1	1	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work).....					
Total.....	3	3	-	-	-

No outworkers were recorded during 1959.

VII. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notified Infectious Diseases 1959

Measles	56
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	12
Whooping Cough	1
Typhoid Fever	1

All the cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and the case of typhoid fever occurred in St.Lawrence's Hospital. The twelve new notifications of tuberculosis resulted from further strenuous efforts on the part of the Chest Physician and Health Visitor in the search for infected patients in the wards. The case of typhoid fever occurred in an Assistant Nurse, supervising chronic carriers. She had previously declined the protective inoculation which is offered to all employees in the hospital.

Routine tuberculin testing of school children in their 13th year was carried out. The few positive reactors were X.Rayed locally. No significant findings were reported. Negative reactors were offered B.C.G. and a high acceptance rate was obtained.